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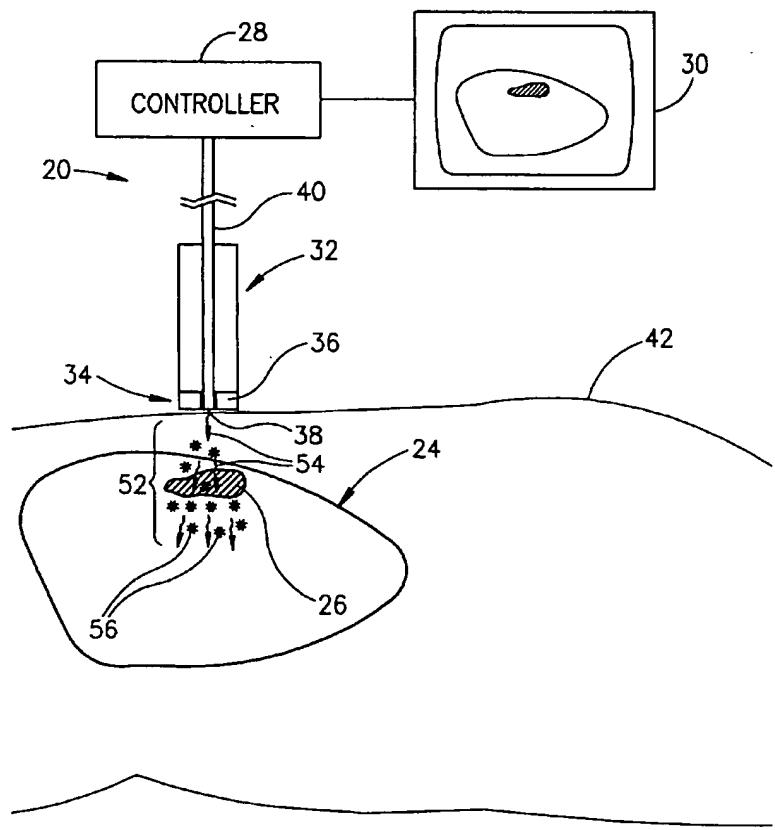
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING TISSUE VIABILITY

WO 2004/000112 A2



(57) **Abstract:** A tissue viability monitor (TVM) for determining viability of a biological tissue comprising: at least one light source controllable to illuminate the tissue with light that generates photoacoustic waves therein; at least one acoustic transducer that generates signals responsive to the photoacoustic waves; and a controller that receives the signals and processes the signals to determine at least one characteristic of the tissue and a measure of viability responsive to the determined at least one characteristic.